

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1-22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) A method for printing of a separator sheet with a printer or copier, comprising the steps of:

with aid of a first program module, generating at least first data that contain at least information for formatting of elements of at least one separator sheet, said elements to be printed on a register tab and not on a remainder of the separation sheet outside of the register tab associated with the at least one separator sheet;

storing the first data in a first file which is separate from any print data for the remainder of the separation sheet outside of the register tab;

generating and storing a third data in an additional file which is separate from any print data for said remainder of the separator sheet, said third data comprising data of the elements to be printed on the register tab;

processing the first data and the third data with aid of a second program module so that second data are generated, and with aid of said second data print data for generation of a print image on the register tab are added to a print data stream containing said any print data for said remainder of said separator sheet outside of the register tab; and

printing at least the register tab of the one separator sheet with the print image by the printer or copier.

24. (previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein the third data that contain data of the elements to be generated on the register tab are generated with aid of the first program module.

25. (previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein the third data that contain data of the elements to be generated on the register tab are generated with aid of a third program module.

26. (previously presented) A method according to claim 24 wherein the second data and the third data are respectively stored in the additional file.

27. (previously presented) A method according to claim 24 wherein the third data contain text data or data of graphic elements.

28. (previously presented) A method according to claim 24 wherein the first data and the third data are processed for a first print job with aid of the second program module, the third data being associated with the first print job, and the first data and fourth data are processed for a second print job of the second program module, the fourth data being associated with the second print job.

29. (currently amended) A method according to claim 28 wherein a file name of [[a]] said first file in which the first data are stored and a file name of [[a]] said additional file in which the third data are stored, or a file name of a file in which the fourth data are stored are specified as parameters in invocation of the second program module.

30. (currently amended) A method according to claim 28 wherein fifth data for generation of a further print image in at least one section of said remainder of the separator sheet outside of the register tab are processed by the second program module such that print data for generation of the further print image are added to the print data stream.

31. (previously presented) A method according to claim 30 wherein the third, fourth, or fifth data can be selected via the first or second program module or can be generated with the help of the first or second program module.

32. (previously presented) A method according to claim 30 wherein the fifth data are associated with a respective print job.

33. (previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein the first data contain at least information for arrangement of elements of a separator sheet set to be printed on register tabs, and that with aid of the second program module second data are generated via which print data for generation of respectively one print image on each register tab of the separator sheet set are added to a print data stream.

34. (previously presented) A method according to claim 33 wherein the separator sheet set serves as a sorting aid for a loose-leaf system.

35. (previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein the first program module is contained as a program element in a desktop publishing program module as one of the elements selected from the group consisting of a Java applet, plug-in program module, and a linked program element.

36. (previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein an assistant function with which all necessary information for generation of the first data can be activated in the first program module.

37. (previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein a view of the separator sheet with register tab of a separator sheet set with the register tabs is simulated and displayed with aid of the first program module.

38. (currently amended) A method according to claim 23 wherein the first program module is executed by a first data processing system and the second program module is executed by a second data processing system.

39. (previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein the information for formatting contains specifications regarding at least one of the elements selected from the group consisting of dimensions of the register tab, position of the register tab in a separator sheet set, paper format of the separator sheet, and alignment of the register tab.

40. (previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein a preview of a separator sheet with selected settings is possible in the first program module, whereby data with the settings as parameters are transferred to the second program module, the second program module transfers the generated second data to the first program module, and wherein with the first program module the second data are further processed into display data with aid of a program element.

41. (currently amended) A system for printing of a separator sheet, comprising:

a first data processing system which executes a first program module that generates first data that contain at least information for formatting of elements of at least one separator sheet, said elements being printable on a register tab associated with the at least one separator sheet and not on a remainder of the separator sheet outside of the register tab;

a first file having the first data stored therein which is separate from any print data for said remainder of the separator sheet outside of the register tab;

third data stored in an additional file which is separate from any print data for said remainder of the separator sheet outside of the register tab, said third data comprising data of the elements to be printed on the register tab;

a second data processing system which executes a second program module that processes the first data and generates the second data so that print data for generation of a print image on the register tab can be added to a print data stream with aid of the second data containing said any print data for said remainder of said separator sheet outside of the register tab; and

a printer or copier which prints at least the register tab of the separator sheet with the print image.

42. (cancelled)

43. (new) A method of claim 30 including the further steps of:

selecting a template for the separator sheet as said first data;

text as said third data for the register tab is selected or loaded;

additional print data as said fifth data for output on said remainder of the separator sheet outside of the register tab is loaded; and

said additional print data as the fifth data is associated with the separator sheet.